

REMARKS

Summary

Prior to entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 9-11 and 18-20 were pending in the application, with Claims 9, 10, 18, and 20 being independent claims. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 10, 11 and 18-20 have been retained in their original format. Accordingly, Claims 10-11 and 18-20 are pending in the application with Claims 10, 18 and 20 being independent claims and Claims 11 and 19 being dependent claims.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 9-11, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yabe (U.S. Patent No, 5,907,415) (hereinafter, "Yabe") in view of Sasaki (U.S. Patent No. 4,969,051) (hereinafter "Sasaki").

Claim 10 is directed to an image input/output system and includes "obtaining means for obtaining a print-job that includes print-data; analyzing means for analyzing the print-data to determine the presence of a picture object for color-output in the print-data; and generating means for generating image data by calculating color-space conversion for the print-data at a high bit-depth if the presence of the picture object for color-output is determined and by calculating the color-space conversion at a low bit-depth if the presence of the picture object for color-output is not determined."

When generating image data, the generating means performs a color-space conversion of print-data at a high bit-depth if a picture object for color-output is present and performs the color-space conversion of the print-data at a low bit-depth if the picture object for color-output is not present.

The above-described feature enables a high-reproducibility processing when the picture object for color-output is present and a high-speed processing when the picture object for color-output is not present.

The Yabe reference teaches setting a coefficient for color space compression process based on a color distribution of an original. However, the Yabe reference does not teach or suggest the feature of the generating means

as recited in the claim 10, i.e., performing the color-space conversion of the print-data at the high bit-depth if the picture object for the color-output is present and performing the color-space conversion of the print-data at the low bit-depth if the picture object for the color-output is not present, when the image data is generated.

Furthermore, the Yabe reference is directed to setting the coefficient for the color space compression process in order to convert a color out of a color reproduction gamut into a color within the color reproduction gamut of a printer. Therefore, the Yabe reference fails to disclose the generating means of Claim 10 which is for providing the high-reproducibility processing when the picture object for the color-output is present and the high-speed processing when the picture object for the color-output is not present.

The Sasaki reference teaches changing a correction quantity of an MTF correction, depending on a selection of a condition dependent on the density of an original image. However, the Sasaki reference also fails to teach or suggest the feature of the generating means recited in the claim 10.

MPEP 2143.03 states: "To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art."

As described above, the cited references do not teach or suggest, *inter alia*, "generating means for generating image data by calculating color-space conversion for the print-data at a high bit-depth if the presence of the picture object for color-output is determined and by calculating the color-space conversion at a low bit-depth if the presence of the picture object for color-output is not determined" as recited in Claim 10.

Accordingly, Claim 10 is believed allowable.

Independent Claims 18 and 20 include similar features to the features discussed above with reference to Claim 10. Claims 18 and 20 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as those discussed above with reference to Claim 10.

The remaining claims, i.e., Claims 11 and 19 are dependent claims. Because each independent Claim is believed allowable, all of the claims

depending therefrom are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with reference to the independent claims. Furthermore, each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, and individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully request that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

August 4, 2008

/Marlene Klein/

Date

Marlene Klein, Reg. No. 43,718
Patent Attorney for Applicants

Canon U.S.A. Inc., Intellectual Property Division
15975 Alton Parkway
Irvine, CA 92618-3731

Telephone: (949) 932-3132
Fax: (949) 932-3560